

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/517,419

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SECOND PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT AND INFORMATION DISCLOSURE

STATEMENT

10/517419

In the ClaimsListing of the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of the claims in the application.

Claims 1-21 (canceled)

22. (New) A head protective equipment, comprising:

- a breathing mask connectable to a breathing-gas source and adapted to be applied, in a use position, over a bottom part of a user's face, around the user's nose and mouth, for supplying said user with breathing gas,

- an eye protective shield adapted to be applied over a top part of said user's face, around the user's eyes, and

- first and second lock elements, respectively located on said mask and on said shield and adapted to cooperate with each other in order to secure said shield to said mask when said mask is in said use position on said user's face, wherein said first and second lock elements are adapted to engage and interlock with each other by a movement of bringing said shield closer to said mask, said movement having a downward component, with reference to said face top and bottom parts.

23. (New) The protective equipment as claimed in claim 22, wherein said second lock element comprises a nipple extending, starting from said shield, in a first oblique direction comprising a downwardly directed component, with reference to said face top and bottom parts.

24. (New) The protective equipment as claimed in claim 23, wherein said mask comprises a substantially conical cavity narrowing toward said first lock element in order to guide said second lock element toward said first lock element, in said movement of bringing said shield toward said mask.

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25. (New) The protective equipment as claimed in claim 21, wherein said nipple is adapted to move longitudinally, substantially in said first oblique direction, between a locked position and an unlocked position, within a grasping unit comprising grasping surfaces for a user's fingers.

26. (New) The protective equipment as claimed in claim 25, provided with a push-button placed substantially between said grasping surfaces and manually operable in order to move said nipple from said locked position to said unlocked position.

27. (New) The protective equipment as claimed in claim 26, wherein said push-button has, in a direction substantially perpendicular to said first oblique direction, an ergonomic surface for pressing said push-button, said ergonomic surface having a dimension greater than 15 mm.

28. (New) The equipment as claimed in claim 23, wherein said mask has guidance surfaces, diverging from a ridge situated substantially in coincidence with said user's nose bridge, and said nipple is flanked by two wings that are substantially symmetrical with respect to a median plane of symmetry of said user's face when the equipment is being worn by said user, said wings extending between a high end close to said nipple and a low end distant from said nipple and becoming more distant from said median plane toward said low end, in order to allow the guidance, by said guidance surfaces, of the positioning of said shield on said mask.

29. (New) The equipment as claimed in claim 22, comprising a locking indicator adapted to block, in an active position, any movement of said first lock element with respect to said second lock element, said locking indicator being in said active position only when said mask and said shield are secured to each other by a mutual interlocking of complementary shapes of said first and second lock elements.

30. (New) The protective equipment as claimed in claim 22, wherein said first and second lock elements are adapted to allow a movement of said shield with respect to said mask, and to favor the application of said shield over said user's face.

31. (New) The protective equipment as claimed in claim 30, wherein said first and second lock elements are mobile with respect to each other, about a horizontal axis, by means of two links.

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32. (New) The protective equipment as claimed in claim 22 wherein said, mask comprises a locking ramp adapted to guide said shield toward a locked position of said shield on said mask, while said shield is moving toward said mask.

33. (New) The protective equipment as claimed in claim 32, wherein said locking ramp is oriented with a component that is downward and toward the interior of said mask.

34. (New) The protective equipment as claimed in claim 30, comprising spring means adapted to bring said shield toward said user's face, when said shield is secured to said mask and when said mask is worn by said user.

35. (New) The protective equipment as claimed in claim 30, comprising a harness fitted with straps adapted to maintain said mask in said use position on said user's head and in which said shield comprises two guidance members adapted for each one respectively to become inserted under a strap of said harness when putting said shield into position on said mask.

36. (New) The protective equipment as claimed in claim 35, wherein said guidance members are adapted to cause said straps, under which said guidance members are inserted while said shield is being put into position on said mask, to rise over sides of said shield.

37. (New) The protective equipment as claimed in claim 35, wherein said straps of said harness are provided with a collar, at the level of the places of insertion of said guidance members under said straps.

38. (New) A breathing mask for a protective equipment comprising
- a breathing mask connectable to a breathing-gas source and adapted to be applied, in a use position, over a bottom part of a user's face, around the user's nose mouth, for supplying said user with breathing gas,
- an eye protective shield adapted to be applied over top part of said user's face, around the user's eyes, and
- first and second lock elements, respectively located on said mask and on said shield and adapted to cooperate with each other in order to secure said shield to said mask when said mask is in use position on said user's face, wherein said first and second lock elements are adapted to engage and interlock with each other by a

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movement of bringing said shield closer to mask, said movement having a downward component, with reference to said face top and bottom parts and, said protective equipment, further comprising a harness fitted with straps adapted to maintain said mask in said use position on said user's head and in which said shield comprises two guidance members adapted for each one respectively to become inserted under a strap of said harness when putting said shield into position on said mask wherein said breathing mask comprises a guidance ramp.

39. (New) The mask as claimed in claim 38, comprising straps provided with guidance collars at the level of places of insertion of said guidance members of said shield under said straps.

40. (New) A protective shield for a protective equipment, comprising a breathing mask connectable to a breathing-gas source and adapted to be applied, in a use position, over a bottom part of a user's face, around the user's nose and mouth, for supplying said user with breathing gas,

- an eye protective shield adapted to be applied over a top part of said user's face, around the user's eyes, and

- first and second lock elements, respectively located on said mask and on said shield and adapted to cooperate with each other in order to secure said shield to said mask when said mask is in said use position on said user's face, wherein said first and second lock elements are adapted to engage and interlock with each other by a movement of bringing said shield closer to said mask, said movement having a downward component, with reference to said face top and bottom parts,

said first and second lock elements being further adapted to allow a movement of said shield with respect to said mask, and to favor the application of said shield over said user's face,

said protective equipment comprising a harness fitted with straps adapted to maintain said mask in said use position on said user's head and in which said shield comprises two guidance members adapted for each one respectively to become inserted under a strap of said harness when putting said shield into position on said mask,

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wherein said shield comprises guidance members adapted for each one respectively to be inserted under a strap of said harness when putting said shield into position on said mask.

41. (New) An eye-protective shield support assembly, said assembly comprising:

- a support,
- an eye-protective shield, and
- first and second lock elements, situated on said support and on said shield respectively and adapted to cooperate with each other in order to secure said shield to said support, wherein said

first and second lock elements are adapted to engage and to interlock with each other by a movement of bringing said shield closer to said support, said movement having a downward component in order to fix said shield to said support when said shield is not secured to a mask.

42. (New) The support as claimed in claim 41 further comprising means of attaching said mask that are independent of said means of attaching said shield and adapted to make it possible to detach said mask from said support without necessarily detaching said shield from said support.